Tips for Great Floral Designers! - Notes by Lisa Whittlesey

1. Always cut stems at an angle to allow the flowers to take up more water. Cut flowers from the garden in the morning before they begin to lose water.

2. Use floral preservatives in your water.
   a. Floral preservatives contain sugar, biocide, and an acidifier.
   b. Use commercial preservatives.
   c. Use warm, not hot water

3. Choose the design style based on the location, containers, and flowers you have available.

4. Use a variety of textures in each design to make it more appealing.

5. Refrigerate cut flowers and designs to lengthen the life of your flowers. This will minimize ethylene production and transpiration.

6. Do not store designs or flowers near fruit, vegetables, or evergreens. These produce ethylene gas, which will shorten the life of your flowers.

7. Practice good sanitation. Bacteria can block flower stems and keep the flower from taking up water. Always practice the following sanitation techniques:
   a. Wash all flower buckets with bleach or bucket wash after each use.
   b. Remove all foliage from the part of the stem that will be under water. This practice will prevent leaves from rotting and growing bacteria.
   c. Disinfect the refrigerator floor and working areas regularly.
   d. Change the water in flower buckets and arrangements on a regular basis to reduce bacteria. Add floral preservatives each time you change the water.
   e. Throw out any dead or rotting plant materials.
Cut Flowers You Can Grow Yourself!

Zinnia    Roses
Iris     Snapdragons
Dianthus    Salvia
Sunflowers    Oxeye or Shasta daisies
Chrysanthemum    Gladiolus
Larkspur    Celosia or coxcomb
Rudbeckia    Purple cone flower

Trees and Shrubs that Make Good Greenery!

Pittosporum    Eleagnus
Burford Holly    Herbs – (Rosemary, basil, thyme)
Cedar    Pine
Ferns (asparagus, queen, etc)    Yaupon Holly
Wax Leaf Ligustrum    English or pothos ivy
Dusty miller    Liriope
Beautyberry
Lots of other tree branches – cypress, oak, elm, crepe myrtle (fall foliage and berry pods)

For More Information About Growing and Caring for These and Other Plants See the Aggie-Horticulture Web-Site!
http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu

For more about Floral Design courses and opportunities through the Benz School of Floral Design at Texas A&M University
https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/benz-school/